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REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF OUR URBAN POPULATION.

Few facts brought to light by our last federal census have caused more discussion than the growth of our urban population. According to that enumeration 26,109,074 persons, or 41.69 per cent of our total population, were living in towns and cities each of which contained 1000 or more inhabitants; 18,235,670 persons, comprising 29.12 per cent of the total number of inhabitants, were found in cities having each 8000 or more inhabitants. The per cent of urban population in cities of this size had increased during the century preceding from 3.35 per cent to 29.12 per cent of total population, but the most rapid increase was found to have taken place during the last decade, when the percentage of urban population rose from 22.57 to 29.12.

What effect this increase of city dwellers will have upon our political, economic, and social life we shall here not attempt to ascertain, but an analysis of the distribution of the urban population of some of our states having different industrial conditions may be helpful to those who are inclined to speculate on such matters. Census Bulletin No. 165 gives us some such analysis, but does not give the percentages, and does not, of course, make any attempt to contrast the urban population of states of different sections, as we do here. A change in the grouping of cities in conformance with the European practice of making one group of towns comprise those having from 2000 to 4000 inhabitants, instead of those having from 2500 to 4000 persons, as is done by our censuses, is made. Another division is also made, placing in a separate group those cities containing 100,000 or more inhabitants. Two groups of states are presented in the following tables, one state in each group being from the North Atlantic division, another from the North Central division east of the Mississippi, and the third from the same division west of the Mississippi. States in the Western division and in the South have too few cities for purposes of comparison. Of the North Atlantic division, the New England states are

excluded, because census returns fail to distinguish between towns (townships) and the villages situated within the towns.

None of the states in the first group presented contain very large cities. New Jersey, however, is primarily a manufacturing and commercial state, with nearly two-thirds of her population living in the towns and cities classified. Indiana possesses a considerable number of manufacturing towns, and has also mining interests of importance, yet nearly 68 per cent of her people are found outside of the towns having 1000 and more inhabitants, and are doubtless engaged in agriculture. Kansas has a still more distinct agricultural character, only 26.54 per cent, or little more than one-fourth, of her inhabitants living in her 101 towns of the size classified. See Table I, page 115.

It will be seen from Table I that the percentage of urban population in the smaller cities and towns in New Jersey is not only less than the percentage in the larger cities, but that it is smaller than the percentage in cities of the same size in the western states. Cities of less than 8000 inhabitants contain only 16.30 per cent of the total urban population in New Jersey, while cities of the same size contain 43.11 per cent of the urban population of Indiana, and 56.18 per cent of the urban population of Kansas.

In the next class, cities containing from 8000 to 25,000 inhabitants, New Jersey has a larger per cent of total population, but a considerably smaller percentage of total *urban* population than either Indiana or Kansas. Beyond this point, however, New Jersey's superiority is well established, whether the comparison be for total population or for total urban population.

In the second group of states considered, all the states, New York, Illinois, and Missouri, have within their borders large cities whose growth has been largely the result of their location with respect to the channels of commerce. As each of these cities is a commercial centre for a large region of territory, it does not necessarily show anything about the industrial character of the state. New York, as everyone knows, is primarily a manufacturing and commercial state, although nearly two millions of her inhabitants, 31.21 per cent of her total population, are found outside the cities and towns classified in the table. Illinois has nearly one-half of her population engaged in agricultural pursuits, while Missouri, in spite of the presence of two large cities within her borders, has a rural population including nearly two-thirds of her inhabitants.

| | Population. | | | Percentage of Total Population. | | | Number of Cities. | | | Average Size of Cities. | | | Percentage of Total Urban Population. | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------|-------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | New Jersey. | Indiana. | Kansas. | New Jersey. | Indiana. | Kansas. | New Jersey. | Indiana. | Kansas. | New Jersey. | Indiana. | Kansas. | New Jersey. | Indiana. | Kansas. |
| State..... | 1,444,933 | 2,192,104 | 1,427,096 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Rural population..... | 511,927 | 1,488,173 | 1,048,405 | 35.42 | 67.88 | 73.46 | .... | .... | .... | 12,116 | 5,178 | 3,749 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Urban "..... | 933,006 | 704,231 | 378,691 | 64.58 | 32.12 | 26.54 | 77 | 136 | 101 | 4.82 | 1,478 | 1,557 | 4.60 | 13.83 | 18.17 |
| Cities of 1,000-2,000..... | 42,884 | 97,450 | 68,835 | 2.96 | 4.44 | 4.84 | 29 | 64 | 49 | 3.82 | 1,329 | 2,490 | 5.64 | 14.15 | 22.75 |
| " " 2,000-4,000..... | 52,677 | 99,648 | 86,182 | 3.64 | 4.54 | 6.04 | 18 | 35 | 33 | 2,926 | 2,847 | 5,779 | 6.06 | 15.13 | 15.26 |
| " " 4,000-8,000..... | 56,533 | 106,567 | 57,795 | 3.91 | 4.85 | 4.05 | 10 | 19 | 10 | 5,653 | 5,608 | 13,794 | 17.13 | 25.38 | 25.50 |
| " " 8,000-25,000..... | 160,549 | 178,764 | 96,556 | 11.11 | 8.15 | 6.76 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 12,350 | 12,769 | 34,661 | 29.53 | 16.50 | 18.30 |
| " " 25,000-100,000..... | 275,530 | 116,366 | 69,323 | 19.06 | 5.30 | 4.86 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 55,106 | 38,789 | ..... | 36.96 | 14.96 | ..... |
| " " 100,000 or over.. | 344,833 | 105,436 | ..... | 23.86 | 4.81 | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | 172,416 | 105,436 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

TABLE II. DISTRIBUTION OF URBAN POPULATION IN NEW YORK, ILLINOIS, AND MISSOURI.

| | Population. | | | Percentage of Total Population. | | | Number of Cities. | | | Average Size of Cities. | | | Percentage of Total Urban Population. | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | New York. | Illinois. | Missouri. | New York. | Illinois. | Missouri. | New York. | Illinois. | Missouri. | New York. | Illinois. | Missouri. | New York. | Illinois. | Missouri. |
| State..... | 5,997,853 | 3,826,331 | 2,679,184 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Rural population..... | 1,872,051 | 1,867,403 | 1,697,315 | 31.21 | 48.81 | 63.31 | .... | .... | .... | 16,179 | 8,128 | 7,792 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Urban "..... | 4,125,782 | 1,958,948 | 981,869 | 68.79 | 51.19 | 36.69 | 255 | 241 | 126 | 1,412 | 1,400 | 1,372 | 3.79 | 9.57 | 9.64 |
| Cities of 1,000-2,000..... | 156,720 | 187,612 | 94,675 | 2.61 | 4.90 | 3.53 | 111 | 134 | 69 | 2,726 | 2,747 | 2,701 | 3.96 | 8.41 | 7.70 |
| " " 2,000-4,000..... | 163,885 | 164,868 | 75,626 | 2.72 | 4.31 | 2.82 | 60 | 60 | 28 | 5,410 | 5,196 | 5,134 | 4.98 | 6.10 | 10.98 |
| " " 4,000-8,000..... | 205,600 | 119,513 | 107,825 | 3.42 | 3.12 | 4.02 | 38 | 23 | 21 | 13,526 | 15,028 | 13,387 | 10.81 | 16.11 | 6.81 |
| " " 8,000-25,000..... | 446,349 | 315,587 | 66,933 | 7.46 | 8.24 | 2.49 | 3 | 21 | 5 | 49,147 | 36,259 | 52,324 | 10.72 | 3.70 | 5.32 |
| " " 25,000-100,000..... | 442,324 | 72,518 | 52,324 | 7.37 | 1.89 | 1.95 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 677,801 | 1,099,850 | 292,243 | 65.71 | 56.14 | 59.53 |
| " " 100,000 or over.. | 2,711,204 | 1,099,850 | 584,486 | 45.20 | 28.74 | 21.81 | 4 | 1 | 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

Here, again, the western states show a larger percentage of people living in the smaller towns and cities than is found in New York, but Missouri does not show the same superiority over Illinois.

Throughout the column the relations of the percentages of urban population in each class of cities in Illinois to the percentages of the same class in Missouri do not present any regularity of increase or decrease. In all of these states the percentage of either total population or of urban population living in the smaller cities is, compared to the states of the preceding group, a very small one. It is when we come to the last class, cities containing over 100,000 inhabitants, that we find the explanation of the great urban population of these states. In all of these states we find over one-half the total urban population living in the cities of this class, and in New York almost one-half the entire population lives in her four great cities.

It may be objected to the above comparison that towns of 1000 to 2000 are too small to be included among cities presenting urban characteristics. It is doubtless true that in the eastern states many of these country towns built along the highway are only villages whose inhabitants are engaged in agricultural occupations, and do not, strictly speaking, present urban characteristics. But this is seldom the case with western towns of this size. They are not only the market towns of the surrounding community, but often factory life on a small scale exists here, and not infrequently these towns are the county seats, and the business interests and social life are considerably different from those of the agricultural communities.

MATTHEW BROWN HAMMOND.

FOREIGN PARENTAGE AND FOREIGN BORN.

On page lxxxix of the Introduction to Part I of the *Compendium of the Eleventh Census* it is stated that "the distribution of native white persons of foreign parentage follows very closely that of the foreign-born element, showing that those states and regions of the country which a generation ago attracted European immigrants still continue to attract them in practically the same degree."

Do the statistics actually show this? In the accompanying tables the statistics on this point are given. They are for the three census divisions of the states in which there is the largest foreign element.